

## Supplemental DEIS/Hunter/Monument No. 1 Reservoir Expansion Project – 1/24/17

- **Description:** The supplemental DEIS evaluates a special-use authorization to reconstruct and enlarge Hunter Reservoir and also includes the enlargement of Monument No. 1 on the Grand Mesa National Forest near Colbran, CO. The 2007 DEIS proposed the Hunter Reservoir expansion only, and was assigned an adverse rating due to impacts to a 32-acre high quality montane peat/fen wetland complex and lack of a range of alternatives. EPA reiterated concerns with the proposed project in scoping comments sent in February 2016, especially in light of the addition of Monument No. 1 and increased future water needs projected by the project proponent. Over the next 30 years, demand is projected to increase by two and a half times the current amount of 14,300 acre-feet, and the reservoir storage is for periods of drought.
- **Rating:** The 2007 DEIS was rated as “EU-3.”
- **Concerns:** EPA’s main concerns are for the potentially environmental unsatisfactory impacts to the fen/montane wetland complex and the habitat it provides from Hunter plus Monument No.1. EPA is also concerned about the lack of consideration of other reasonable, less damaging alternatives that would meet the water capacity needs with reduced adverse impacts.
- **Status:** Region 8 has been working with the USFS and COE since 2004 on this project. After the 2007 Adverse Rating, formal negotiations lead to the COE identifying Monument No. 1 as the LEDPA. Now that Ute Water has increased its projection of future water needs, they claim they must include both Monument No. 1 and Hunter as the proposed action. We are awaiting information on proposed mitigation measures.
- **Way Forward:** Region 8 expects to receive the Suppl. DEIS mid Feb 2017 with a new alternative that may present a potentially less damaging alternative, before the supplemental DEIS is published in the Federal Register.